

Speaker Profiles

2008 INPAWS 15th Annual Conference



Douglas W. Tallamy

*Professor and Chair
Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware*

Doug Tallamy is the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*.

As a child, Tallamy learned first-hand about the finality of suburban development as practiced today. Having recently moved with his family into a new house in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, he spent his summer days exploring the “wild” places that surrounded him.

One of his first discoveries was a small pond where thousands of pollywogs wiggled near its shoreline, and he took great delight in watching them grow each day. One day as he watched, a bulldozer crested nearby piles of dirt, and—in an act that has been replicated around the nation millions of times since—proceeded to bury the young toads and all of the other living treasures within the pond.

Tallamy has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. Chief among his research goals is to better understand **the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities**.

In his free time, Tallamy enjoys photography (especially of insects and birds), hiking and backpacking with his wife in remote places, swimming and canoeing, and teaching young people about the importance of the life forms around them.



Dr. Steve Yaninek

*Professor and Chair
Department of Entomology
Purdue University*

Steve Yaninek serves on the Indiana Invasive Species Task Force and speaks around the world on entomological issues. His achievements at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, West Africa, include a successful cassava plant protection program in which he identified, imported from Latin America, mass produced and released in Africa a series of phytoseiid mite predators. One species is now established in 20 countries, covers an area of more than 2,000,000 km², reduces pest populations by two-thirds, and increases crop yields by a third. The economic impact has been estimated to exceed \$100 million per season in West Africa alone. For this work he won an award from Nigeria for improving the lives of Casava farmers.

Yaninek's talk will be on the short-term study abroad course he developed that makes on-site visits to **migratory Monarch butterfly sanctuaries in Michoacan, Mexico**. Each year, an estimated 150 million Monarch adults migrate from Canada and the United States to spend the months between November and March inhabiting a specific fir tree species found on a dozen mountaintops scattered across several states in central Mexico. Six of these locations have been set aside as national sanctuaries to protect the butterflies and the high mountain habitat required for their survival. The course brings students and staff to those sites for first-hand observation.



Hilary Cox

Writer, Lecturer, Designer
Leescapes Garden Designs

Hilary Cox lived and worked in Britain, Austria, and France before moving to the US, where she volunteered at the Delaware Centre for Horticulture and took gardening classes at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, followed by Master Gardener training in Indiana. The IMA's Formal Garden was her "baby" for five summers, 1993 to 1997.

A charter member of INPAWS, Cox designed and installed demonstration gardens at Orchard-in-Bloom and The Indiana Historical Society. Clients' gardens have been featured in national and local magazines and newspapers, as has Cox's own garden, which is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat™. She continues to write for various local and national magazines and lectures on all aspects of gardening and garden design.

The title of her talk is **Underused Natives for Overworked Gardeners**. Says Cox, "During the four month drought of summer 2002, I watched as my lawn turned brown, then crispy; my vegetable garden stopped producing; and some 'ornamentals' wilted and went dormant. By September, when Pam Harper, famed English gardener, authoress and plantswoman was coming to visit, I was in despair. So to reassure myself, I made a list of plants that were not only surviving but thriving and flowering. Surprise, surprise! The list consisted of 90% Indiana natives, most of which I never see in any other gardens in town. These plants can help you stop fighting hoses, feeding fertilizer, and fending for your forbs, allowing you to sit back and enjoy a showy garden despite the worst the weather can throw at us!"



Jim McCormac

*Avian Education Specialist
Ohio Division of Wildlife*

Backyards and Beyond: Plant Locally, Save Globally is the subject of Jim McCormac's talk. In an increasingly urbanized landscape, the role of habitat restoration—backyards or bigger projects—takes on growing importance, and the use of native flora is vital to the success of such projects. The talk explores some fantastic and little-known plants and the interesting ecological relationships that spring up around them, the global importance of urban landscapes to winged wildlife, and the big picture of urban landscape roles, showing how, with native plants, we can paint a picture of beauty and biodiversity that no ornamental garden of non-natives can match.

A lifelong Ohioan, McCormac became passionate about natural history at a very early age, and began actively pursuing birds before he was 10 years old. Some 30 years later, his Ohio list stands at 352 species, one of the largest in the state. He has birded in nearly every state and most Canadian provinces, as well as far-flung places like the Australian Outback, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

McCormac is also a botanist. Before accepting his present post, he worked as a field botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for ten years, discovering many species new to Ohio and a number of endangered plants. He is interested in the relationships between plants and birds, as well as other animals, and is especially fascinated by rare habitats and flora. He has published numerous articles and papers on botany and ornithology, authored *Birds of Ohio* (Lone Pine 2004), and coauthored the Ohio Floristic Quality Assessment Index, a methodology for evaluating the quality of habitats. He is at work on a book illustrating the best remaining natural areas in Ohio.



Dean Zimmerman

Wildlife Biologist

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife

That Dean Zimmerman knows a lot about **Cost Share and Grant Options for Developing Wildlife Habitats** should come as no surprise. As wildlife biologist with the state for 37 years, he has been helping private landowners in six west-central Indiana counties develop habitat on their properties. He has also conducted wildlife surveys, inspected deer and goose damage complaints, done public relations work, and much more.

Zimmerman grew up in rural northeast Indiana and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue in Agriculture, majoring in wildlife science. He and his wife of 35 years have two sons and one daughter, all married. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, landscaping, traveling, and spending time with family.



Wendell Zetterberg, Jr.

*Environmental Educator
FrogWatch USA Volunteer*

A resident of north central Indiana, Wendell Zetterberg is passionate about frogs and toads, which, like the proverbial canary in the coalmine, are bio-indicators of environmental problems. “A third of the world’s amphibians are imperiled because of human actions,” says Zetterberg. “Re-establishing lost habitat with native plants is a great way to help them.” The title of his talk is **Why the “Year of the Frog” is Important to Indiana Amphibians.**

A status migraine that has lasted over five years renders Zetterberg unable to work. Some doctors believe this was caused by exposure to pesticides at a seed corn plant he worked at. Looking into pesticides, he learned how they were also affecting frogs and wanted to help out. He discovered FrogWatch USA and found the perfect way to occupy his time. Three years ago, he found a bullfrog with a deformed hind leg at his sister’s small pond, the place where his niece was soon to play, and was greatly disturbed. This prompted him to get involved with environmental education. He now does programs showing nature lovers young and old how amazing amphibians are and why we should protect them.

Zetterberg has volunteered with FrogWatch and the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program for five years, and holds membership in the Hoosier Herpetological Society and Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. He founded a local FrogWatch chapter, the Central Indiana FrogWatchers and sits on the board of an emerging non-profit group, Nature Abounds, which educates and empowers citizens to take ownership of their community through environmental stewardship such as watershed protection, conservation of native flora and fauna, and “going green.”

Reni Winter



*Owner/Steward
Winterhaven Wildflowers & Native Plant Preserve
West Point, Indiana*

Reni Winter's Winterhaven Wildflowers & Native Plant Preserve is a 13-acre mixed-ecosystem property where she lives in rural Tippecanoe County. Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of native plants and the wildlife they support, Winter is a participant in the Indiana Master Naturalist program, with certification scheduled for November of this year. She has been studying and growing native plants since 1996, first in South Mississippi and now in Indiana. Winterhaven is a Certified Wildlife Habitat, funded in part by a DNR Wildlife Habitat grant, and is a certified Monarch Waystation.

Winter's talk, **Monarchs and Milkweed: The Habitat Needs of the Monarch Butterfly** distills what she has learned from her active involvement in the preservation and restoration of monarch butterfly habitat, educating children and adults about the monarch and raising, tagging, and releasing monarchs.

Since European settlers came to North America and started farming and building cities, billions of acres of wildlife habitat have been destroyed, and that destruction continues. Milkweed, the only host plant for the monarch butterfly to lay its eggs and the only plant on which the larva (caterpillars) feed, is one of the casualties of man's dominion over this continent. Disdained by farmers because its white "milk" is toxic to livestock, and destroyed incidentally by developers along with other native plant species, milkweed continues to disappear at a rate of about a thousand acres a day. At the same time, monarch populations are decreasing, at least partially due to the decrease in habitat. It is up to humans intentionally to reverse that trend and increase monarch habitat by planting milkweed, specifically *Asclepias syriaca*, or common milkweed. Free milkweed seeds will be available at this talk, which is recommended as a precursor to the afternoon keynote address by Dr. Steve Yaninek on the monarch's overwintering grounds in Mexico.



Michael Homoya

*State Botanist
Indiana Department of Natural Resources*

Michael Homoya has been an Indiana DNR Division of Nature Preserves botanist/plant ecologist for the past 26 years. His duties include assessing sites for natural quality and significance, and surveying for species on Indiana's list of threatened and endangered plants. He studied under Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock at Southern Illinois University, receiving B.A. and M.S. degrees in botany. Author of *Orchids of Indiana*, he is currently preparing field guides to Indiana's common forest plants, and Indiana ferns.

Homoya, pictured here with his wife Barbara, will speak on **guidelines for determining the nativity of plants, and implications for natural area restoration.**